



FREDERICK MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

400 West Seventh Street Frederick, Maryland 21701-4593 240-566-3300

Ms. Dolores A. Sands
Chief, Specialized Services Policy & Planning
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

March 27, 2009

Dear Ms Sands,

Thank you for allowing Frederick Memorial Hospital to comment on the proposed changes to COMAR 10.24.17. In particular this changes the Door to Balloon metric from the current less than 120 minutes for 80% of patients, to less than 90 minutes for 75% of patients undergoing pPCI for STEMI. FMH fully supports this change as it complies with current ACC recommendations for patients with STEMI.

FMH strongly believes that changing this part of the COMAR standard will enable the state to more effectively monitor compliance in this important area. Door to balloon time is among the strongest quality indicators of a pPCI program. We believe that all Maryland hospitals, whether they have open heart surgery on site or not, should be held to this metric.

Again, thank you for soliciting our comment. Please let us know if there is further opportunity to provide opinion.

Yours truly,

Nancy Bruce
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